

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUSSEL 00351 271121Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
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FM AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3438
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USAREUR HEIDELBERG
USAFE RAMSTEIN
USCINCEUR STUTTGART

UNCLAS DUSSELDORF 351

MILITARY ADDEES FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB GW
SUBJ: NRW METAL FABRICATING WAGE NEGOTIATIONS FAIL-MAJOR STRIKE
POSSIBLE

REF: 77 DUSSELDORF 2052

1. AFTER MONTHS OF PROTRACTED BARGAINING AND TEN DAYS OF
ABORTIVE MEDIATION, ACCOMPANIED BY WARNING STRIKES WITH AN
ESTIMATED LOSS OF ABOUT 100,000 MAN HOURS, NEGLTIATIONS ON
A NEW WAGE AGREEMENT FOR THE ABOUT 1 MILLION EMPLOYEES IN
THE METAL FABRICATING INDUSTRIES OF NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA
(NRW) BROKE DOWN ON FEBRUARY 25, 1978.

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2. ON FEBRUARY 27, THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING COMMITTEE FOR
THE METAL FABRICATING INDUSTRIES OF NRW WILL MEET AND
PROBABLY REQUEST PERMISSION FOR A STRIKE VOTE FROM
THE FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE METAL WORKERS UNION
(I.G. METALL). A MAJORITY OF 75 PERCENT OF THE VOTES
CAST ARE NECESSARY FOR A STRIKE.

3. ORIGINALLY THE UNION DEMANDED AN 8 PERCENT PAY BOOST ACROSS THE BOARD. BECAUSE OF THE PARTICULARLY BAD SITUATION IN METAL FABRICATING IN NRW, THE EMPLOYERS OFFERED AN INCREASE OF 3 PERCENT, 0.5 PERCENT LESS THAN IN OTHER AREAS OF THE FRG. UNION RANK AND FILE EXPECTATIONS RANGED FROM A 5.5 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE PROBLEM INDUSTRIES TO A 10.5 PERCENT HIKE IN BOOMING INDUSTRIES SUCH AS AUTOMOBILES.

4. THE UNION REPORTED THAT THE EMPLOYERS HAD STUCK TO THEIR ORIGINAL OFFER OF 3 PERCENT AND INDICATED THAT ANY INCREASE OF LESS THAN 5 PERCENT WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE UNION. ON THE OTHER HAND THE EMPLOYERS CLAIMED THAT THE UNION REFUSED TO BUDGE FROM ITS ORIGINAL DEMAND OF 8 PERCENT AND ANY INCREASE OF 5 PERCENT AND MORE WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE.

5. SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT BOTH THE UNIONS AND THE EMPLOYERS HAVE DRIVEN BARGAINING TO THIS POINT AS AN ALIBI FOR A COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT OF AROUND 5 PERCENT, FOR WHICH, HOWEVER, A NEW MEDIATOR WILL HAVE TO OFFER HIS SERVICES. AN EVENTUAL STRIKE IN THE MORE PROSPEROUS AREAS WILL PROBABLY BE ANSWERED BY A GENRAL LOCK-OUT IN NRW METAL FABRICATING.BLIGH

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Message Attributes

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